

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This letter is responsive to the Office Action dated February 6, 2006.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 33 – 39 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. The Examiner noted that claim 33 does not require a filter to be positioned anywhere within the canister or upright vacuum cleaner. The Examiner noted that Figures 2, 3 and 5 include a filter within the vacuum cleaner. The Examiner noted that a positive recitation of a filter should be incorporated into claim 33. Accordingly, by this response, the applicant has amended claim 33 by inserting therein as new element (e) a statement that a filter is provided downstream from the second cyclonic cleaning stage.

In view of the amendment of claim 33, a consequential amendment has been made to claim 36.

In view of the forgoing amendment, favourable consideration of the application with a view to early allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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